

Every year, an estimated 2.1 million elderly and disabled Americans are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

But those numbers may not tell the whole story.

● For every case that is reported to authorities, experts estimate there may be as many as five other cases that are not reported.



Our Mission

In 1988, the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units and the National Association of Attorneys General adopted guidelines and legislation to prohibit patient and resident abuse.

The Utah Medicaid and Elder/Patient Abuse Unit's mission is to protect the safety and property of the vulnerable citizens of the State of Utah through skilled detection, aggressive investigation and prosecution, recovery services, and prevention.



"We have a duty to protect the disabled and defend our elders from those who would harm and exploit them."

Attorney General Mark Shurtleff

Reporting Abuse

Any person who has reason to believe that an elder or disabled adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited must immediately notify the nearest law enforcement agency or contact Adult Protective Services at (800) 371-7897

To report Medicaid providers who abuse the elderly or disabled, contact the Medicaid Fraud and Elder/Patient Abuse Unit at (877) 613-7283 or go to our Web site at www.utmedfraud.state.ut.us

Reporting required by law
Utah State Code 76-5-111.1

Protecting Utah's Elder and Disabled Citizens



**Utah Attorney General's Office
Medicaid Fraud and
Elder/Patient Abuse Unit**

**Gale R. Evans, Fraud Unit Director
Mark L. Shurtleff, Attorney General**



Elder and disabled abuse, like other forms of violence, is never an acceptable response to any problem or situation.

Effective intervention can prevent or stop the abuse.

By increasing awareness among physicians, mental health professionals, home health care workers, and others who provide services to the elderly or disabled, the patterns of neglect or exploitation can be broken. Both the victim and the abuser can receive the help they need.

Who are the victims?

An “elder adult” is a person who is 65 years of age or older.

A “disabled adult” is a person 18 years of age or older who is impaired because of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness, or physical disability.

What is abuse?

Abuse occurs when a person causes an elder or disabled adult to suffer physical injury, sexual abuse, or neglect, or permits that person to be injured or placed in danger.

Some indicators of abuse include

- Unexplained bruises or welts
- Signs of physical confinement (ropes, bindings, locked doors)
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Weight gain or loss
- Hyperthermia or hypothermia
- Withholding medication or over-medicating
- Soiled clothing/linens
- Untreated injuries
- Absence of medical necessities
- Frequent hospital visits

Some of the indicators of neglect include

- Untreated sores
- Decayed teeth
- Dirty clothing or environment
- Inadequate clothing for weather
- Body odors
- Lack of glasses, dentures or other aides if usually worn

What is financial exploitation?

Financial exploitation is the most common type of abuse among elderly and disabled adults.

Financial exploitation occurs when a person, in a position of trust or confidence, or in a business relationship with the adult, and knowingly by deception or intimidation, obtains or uses, or attempts to obtain or use the credit, assets or other property of the adult with intent to temporarily or permanently deprive for the benefit of another.

Indicators of exploitation include

- Unusual activity in bank or credit card accounts
- New acquaintances residing with an elder or disabled person
- New “best friend”
- Recent changes in property titles
- Power of Attorney executed by confused elder or disabled person
- Lack of amenities when elder or disabled person can afford them
- Missing property
- Forged or suspicious signatures
- Signed checks or documents by elder or disabled person who cannot write
- Disconnected utilities